

AHS Table Creator Help

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Create a simple table [back to top](#)

- NOTE: You can create a table by selecting an Area, Year and a Table, while using the default selections for all other sections of the form.
- To create a table that shows plumbing characteristics at the national level of geography from the 2013 AHS:
 - Select "National" from the Area selection box.

- Select "2013" from the Year selection box.
- Select "Plumbing, Water, and Sewage Disposal" from the Table selection box.
- Press the "Get Table" button at the bottom of the form.
- This creates the table below. NOTE: The table below is just an excerpt for demonstration purposes. The actual table has many more rows.

2013 National - Plumbing, Water, and Sewage Disposal - All Occupied Units

[Numbers in thousands, except as indicated. Weighting consistent with Census 2010. Blank cells represent or round to zero; '.' represents not applicable or no cases in sample.]

[See Appendix A for definitions](#)

Characteristics	National
Total	115852
Primary Source of Water	
Public or private system	102264
Well serving 1 to 5 units	13232
Drilled	12076
Dug	765
Not reported	392
Other	355

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- NOTE: If you previously created the first example table, then use the "Reset" button in the tool to reset the form. The steps below presume you have not created the previous example table.

- To create a table that shows plumbing characteristics at the national level of geography by urban area from the 2013 AHS:
 - Select "National" from the Area selection box.
 - Select "2013" from the Year selection box.
 - Select "Plumbing, Water, and Sewage Disposal" from Table selection box.
 - Under Column Variables, select "2010 Urban Area" (under the Geography heading) from the Variable 1 selection box.
 - Press the "Get Table" button at the bottom of the form.
 - This creates the table below. NOTE: The table below is just an excerpt for demonstration purposes. The actual table has many more rows.
 - NOTE: The column variable you selected appears below the table title (seen in red in the example below).

2013 National - Plumbing, Water, and Sewage Disposal - All Occupied Units

Variable 1: 2010 Urban Area, Variable 2: None

[Numbers in thousands, except as indicated. Weighting consistent with Census 2010. Blank cells represent or round to zero; '.' represents not applicable or no cases in sample.]

[See Appendix A for definitions](#)

Characteristics	2010 Urban Area			
	Total	Urbanized Area	Urban Cluster	Rural
Total	115852	81641	11059	23152
Primary Source of Water				
Public or private system	102264	79173	10328	12763
Well serving 1 to 5 units	13232	2409	717	10106
Drilled	12076	2197	673	9206

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To create a table that nests the previously created Plumbing, Water, and Sewage Disposal by Tenure and by Hispanic origin:

- NOTE: If you previously created either of the other example tables, then use the "Reset" button in the tool to reset the form. The steps below presume you have not created the previous example table.
- Select "National" from the Area selection box.
- Select "2013" from the Year selection box.
- Select "Plumbing, Water, and Sewage Disposal" from the Table selection box.
- Under Column Variables, select "Tenure" (under the General heading) from the Variable 1 selection box.
- Under Column Variables, select "Hispanic Origin of Householder" (under the Demographics heading) from the Variable 2 selection box.
- Press the "Get Table" button at the bottom of the form.
- This creates the table below -- notice that the counts of "Hispanic Origin of Householder" are nested within each value of "Tenure." NOTE: The table below is just an excerpt for demonstration purposes. The actual table has many more columns and rows.
- NOTE: The column variable you selected appears below the table title (seen in red in the example below).

2013 National - Plumbing, Water, and Sewage Disposal - All Occupied Units


Variable 1: Tenure, Variable 2: Hispanic Origin of Householder

[Numbers in thousands, except as indicated. Weighting consistent with Census 2010. Blank cells represent or round to zero; '.' represents not applicable or no cases in sample.]

[See Appendix A for definitions](#)

Characteristics	Tenure						
	Total			Owner		Renter	
	Hispanic Origin of Householder			Hispanic Origin of Householder		Hispanic Origin of Householder	
	Total		Not Hispanic	Total		Not Hispanic	Total
		Hispanic*			Hispanic*		
Total	115852	14675	101176	75650	6897	68753	40201
Primary Source of Water							
Public or private system	102264	14085	88179	63799	6437	57362	38465
Well serving 1 to 5 units	13232	561	12671	11592	448	11144	1640
Drilled	12076	498	11578	10679	403	10277	1396

[Downloading](#) [back to top](#)

HTML is the default download option. You can also download tables in Excel. Click the  (down arrow) on the top tool bar and choose the Excel option. A box may pop up asking you: “Do you want to open or save TableX.xlsx from census.gov?” Click “Open.” The Excel file should open in a few seconds.

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Estimates and Margins of Error are displayed in thousands of housing units, except as indicated. For example, a median row label may be followed by (dollars), indicating the data are no longer in thousands of housing units. Beginning in 2015, all medians (and means beginning in 2019), except Year Structure Built, have been rounded to four significant digits as part of the disclosure avoidance protocol. Medians and means that appear in PDF and Excel summary tables with decimal places are rounded to the nearest whole number in Table Creator national tables (e.g. current interest rate). Blank cells represent true zeros and a Z represents estimates that round to zero. “Rounds to zero” refers to values that amount to less than half the unit of measurement shown (e.g. less than 500 housing units in National tables and less than 50 units in Metro tables, except in median or percent rows where another unit of measure may be indicated in parenthesis). In addition, cell suppression results in the symbol, S, which represents estimates that did not meet publication standards.

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Suppressed cells display as an ‘S’. Suppression can occur for any of the following reasons:

- When the coefficient of variation (CV) is greater than or equal to 30%, the estimate is suppressed;
- When a median or mean uses a variable not available on the Public Use File (PUF) and the cell count is less than 10, the median or mean is suppressed. Interpolated medians (e.g. Year Structure Built) have a suppression threshold of less than 3;
- When an estimate uses a variable not available on the Public Use File (PUF) and unweighted cell counts are less than 3, the estimate is suppressed. State data are not on the PUF, therefore suppression rules are applied;
- When the unweighted cell count of a “related” estimate is less than 3, the estimate is suppressed;
- When a “child” estimate has a “parent” estimate with an unweighted cell count of less than 3, the “child” estimate is suppressed. Parent indicators are rows that have other rows indented under them. The indented rows are the child rows that, when added together, sum up to the parent row; or
- When an estimate is repeated anywhere in a table and the original estimate is suppressed, the “replicated” estimate will also be suppressed and vice versa.
- When an estimate is related to a “replicated” estimate that is less than 3, the estimate is suppressed;
- When an estimate is not applicable or has no cases in sample AND has related cells that are suppressed, the “.” will be replaced with an ‘S’.

To do this, we grouped mutually exclusive indicators within each table stub, according to parent/child relationships in order to identify which rows were “related” to one another. This allowed us to determine which related cells needed to be suppressed in order to prevent disclosure (by subtraction) of any other cells within the group where at least one of the cells had an unweighted count of less than 3. There are 5 dimensions in

Table Creator: Table, Variable 1, Variable 2, Tenure filter, and Geography filter. The suppression algorithm works across these multiple dimensions to ensure that suppression is consistent when executing separate, but overlapping filter selections.

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Cells with no data:

When there are no records for a particular cell, the software will place a ‘.’ in the cell. A ‘.’ is the result of one of the following scenarios: 1.) there were no housing units in the sample that met those conditions, or 2.) you are trying to cross tabulate two variables that do not share the same universe (the figure is not applicable because the column heading and stub line yield impossible, absurd, or meaningless results). Cross tabulations showing a "." in Table Creator were displayed as an X, or not applicable, in published AHS summary tables prior to 2011.

Entire columns with no data:

If a valid column has no records for ANY of the rows in the table, the column will NOT display at all. It will NOT be listed with the missing values symbol for all rows (or columns) unless at least one row of the column has data. Some table combinations are intentionally disabled because some variables do not make sense to cross tabulate. For example, if you select the Mortgage Characteristics table and then choose Tenure as your column variable, the Renter column will not display. The Tenure filter automatically defaults to owner-occupied units only because renters cannot have a mortgage.

Other table combinations may result in columns that do not display because there are no housing units in the sample that met the criteria selected. For example, if you select the 2019 General Housing table for Los Angeles-Long Beach using the 2010 Urban Area column variable, the table will render, but the Urban Cluster column will not display.

Entire tables with no data:

Tables that yield no data in any row or column will not display at all. Using the example above, if you add the Urban Cluster geography filter to the same 2019 General Housing table for Los Angeles-Long Beach using ANY column variable, the table will not render because there are no housing units in Los Angeles-Long Beach that meet the Urban Cluster criteria. Instead, the message below will display:

The table you requested does not contain any estimates. This occurs when there are no housing units in the AHS sample that meet the criteria you selected.

You can try:

- Broadening your search criteria by deselecting a filter category.
- Visiting the [American Housing Survey Table Creator Help Guide](#) for more information about missing values.

[Row and column variable ranges](#) [back to top](#)

Variables involving ranges are pre-defined and cannot be customized. For example, square footage ranges are ‘Less than 500,’ ‘500 to 749,’ etc. and cannot be changed. Ranges can only be manipulated using the Public Use File.

Margins of Error [back to top](#)

Starting in 2015, tables include the added ability for users to display the Margin of Error (MOE) for each estimate. To display MOEs, select the “Estimates and Margins of Error” options from the “View” drop-down menu located in the Filter section of the Table Criteria menu panel.

Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate arising from sampling variability is represented through the use of a margin of error. The value shown here is the 90 percent margin of error. The margin of error can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the estimate minus the margin of error and the estimate plus the margin of error (the lower and upper confidence bounds) contains the true value. In addition to sampling variability, the AHS estimates are subject to nonsampling error (for a discussion of nonsampling variability, see [Accuracy of the Data](#)). The effect of nonsampling error is not represented in these tables.

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Because geographic boundaries change over time, AHS metropolitan areas are not always consistent over time and do not always match OMB definitions. To reduce confusion, detailed metropolitan area names are displayed below the table title. When comparing a metropolitan area between different survey years, use these detailed metropolitan area names to determine if they are comparable.

2015 and Later

Starting in 2015, the AHS metro area definitions match the official Office of Management and Budget (OMB) delineations. From 2015 onwards, AHS metros match Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSA) definitions of that year by the same name. For more information, see www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro.html.

Crosswalk between 2013 and 2015

Due to changes in geographic boundaries, use caution when comparing 2015 metro estimates to prior years. Please see [Summary of the Differences between the 2015 and 2013 AHS Metro Areas](#) for more information.

1985 to 2013

For more on differences in metro area definitions from 1985 to 2013, see [Metropolitan Area Histories](#) and [Geography, Public Use File: 1985- 2013](#).

About the American Housing Survey [back to top](#)

Click on the link above to find information about the purpose, sponsoring agency, frequency, historical background, topical coverage, and methodology of the Survey.

Click on the link above to access Appendices of the Summary Report for each survey year. Appendices include:

Definitions – Appendix A provides definitions and explanations of table stub titles (row headings in bold) and column headings.

Sample Design and Weighting – Appendix B provides information on how housing units were selected to be part of the sample and how each housing unit in the sample is weighted.

Historical Changes – Appendix C is a complete list of changes to the questionnaire and to the tables that have occurred since the previous survey.

Errors – Appendix D includes descriptions of the types of sampling and nonsampling errors and provides formulas for constructing confidence intervals. Note that starting with the 2015 AHS, this Appendix was combined with the Sample Design and Weighting documentation (Appendix B).

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Try the AHS microdata. The PUF microdata, (a.k.a. Public Use File) are files containing individual household responses to the survey questions, which can be used to generate custom tables. Data can be downloaded in SAS and ASCII formats. To get to the microdata, click on the [AHS Data page](#), select a year tab at the top and then click on “Public Use File (PUF)”. To recreate any of the AHS Table Creator tables, you can use the AHS Table Specifications, located on the AHS Data page (click the National or Metropolitan PUF link). The specifications show the variable(s) used to tabulate each row. The [PUF Codebook](#) is a searchable web application that provides information about each variable and where to find it on the PUF.